

LXIX.—*Descriptions of Four new African Fishes of the Genus Mastacembelus.* By G. A. BOULENGER, F.R.S.

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*Mastacembelus batesii.*

Depth of body 15 to 16 times in total length, length of head 8 to 9 times. Vent equally distant from end of snout and from caudal, its distance from head 3 to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times length of latter. Snout 3 to 4 times as long as eye, ending in an appendage which is a little longer than eye; mouth extending to below anterior third or centre of eye; no præorbital or præopercular spines. Dorsal XXX-XXXIII 80-90; spines extremely short, last scarcely longer than eye; distance between first spine and head  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  length of head. Anal II 80-90. Caudal rounded-subacuminate. Scales very small, 16-18 between origin of soft dorsal and lateral line; latter formed of a few tubules widely separated from one another. Brown or olive above, with dark spots or marblings and a vertebral series of small black spots; a regular series of round or squarish dark brown spots on each side of the back, sometimes confluent into a wavy band; yellowish on the sides, with a more or less distinct brown network; dorsal and anal fins spotted with brown.

Total length 320 mm.

Several specimens, from the Ja River at Bitye, South Cameroon (Congo Basin), were sent to the Natural History Museum by Mr. G. L. Bates.

*Mastacembelus ubangensis.*

Depth of body 15 to 16 times in total length, length of head 7 times. Vent equally distant from head and from caudal, its distance from head 3 times length of latter. Snout twice as long as eye, ending in an appendage which is hardly as long as eye; mouth extending to below anterior border of eye; a strong erectile spine below nostril; two strong præopercular spines. Dorsal XXIX-XXX 110; distance between first spine and head  $\frac{3}{4}$  length of latter. Anal II 110. Caudal pointed. Pectoral  $\frac{1}{4}$  length of head. Scales very small, about 15 between origin of soft dorsal and lateral line. Brownish, with an ill-defined darker band along the side of the head and body; vertical fins whitish, with a series of large black spots at the base of the posterior part of the dorsal; a black spot on the caudal.

Total length 100 mm.

Two specimens (probably young) from Banzyville, Ubanghi, from the collection of Captain Royaux. One is preserved in the Congo Museum, Tervueren, the other in the Natural History Museum. I had previously referred them to *M. marmoratus*, Perugia.

*Mastacembelus brevicauda.*

Depth of body 13 to 14 times in total length, length of head 7 to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  times. Vent equally distant from head or præoperculum and from caudal, its distance from head  $3$  to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times length of latter. Snout 3 times as long as eye, ending in an appendage which is as long as eye; mouth extending to below anterior third or centre of eye; no præorbital spine; 2 or 3 small præopercular spines. Dorsal XXIX-XXXII 70-80; spines very short, last scarcely longer than the eye; distance between first spine and head  $\frac{2}{3}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  length of head. Anal II 70-80; first spine minute, often very indistinct. Caudal obtusely pointed. Pectoral  $\frac{1}{4}$  length of head. Scales very small, 15-17 between origin of soft dorsal and lateral line; latter formed of a few tubules widely separated from one another. Olive-brown above, usually with a more or less distinct dark brown band on each side of the back above the lateral line, and a vertebral series of small dark brown spots corresponding with the spines; sides mottled with dark brown; caudal region marbled with dark brown, with light spots towards the caudal fin, which bears one or several large black spots and is edged with whitish; yellowish beneath, sometimes with a brown network.

Total length 200 mm.

Numerous specimens from South Cameroon (Kribi River, Zima Country, Ja and Bumba Rivers), received from Mr. G. L. Bates.

*Mastacembelus reticulatus.*

Depth of body 11 to 12 times in total length, length of head 7 to  $7\frac{1}{3}$  times. Vent equally distant from head and from caudal, its distance from former 3 times length of latter. Snout 3 times as long as eye, ending in an appendage which is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times as long as the eye; mouth extending to below nostril; no præorbital spine; two strong præopercular spines. Dorsal XXXI-XXXII 90; spines extremely short, last not longer than eye; distance between first spine and head  $\frac{1}{2}$  length of head. Anal II 90-95; first spine extremely short, very indistinct. Caudal rounded. Pectoral  $\frac{1}{2}$  length

of head. Scales very small, 20 between origin of soft dorsal and lateral line; latter formed of a few tubules widely separated from one another. Brownish, with dark lines forming a wide-meshed network; dorsal, anal, and caudal fins blackish, with round white spots more or less regularly arranged, and a white border.

Total length 190 mm.

Two specimens from Sierra Leone, presented to the Natural History Museum by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

LXX.—*Descriptions of new Genera and Species of Oriental Homoptera.* By W. L. DISTANT.

Fam. Fulgoridæ.

Subfam. DERBINÆ.

*Phenice pullata*, sp. n.

Head and thorax above piceous, pronotum black; body beneath black; metasternum and legs stramineous; coxæ piceous; abdomen above black, spotted with ochraceous; tegmina dark fuscous, the costal area white, with large dark fuscous spots, the second from base largest and longitudinal, the others transverse, the inner area broadly and irregularly white, the fuscous extending through it to inner margin near base and before middle, two white spots on apical margin, the lowermost large, the upper one small, the apices of the veins on inner margin are fuscous; wings fuliginous, with the veins fuscous, the posterior marginal area suffused with white; antennæ ochraceous.

Long., excl. tegm., 3 mm.; exp. tegm. 19 mm.

*Hab.* N.W. Ind. Prov.; Kumaon District.

Allied to *P. murata*, Westw., but larger, markings of tegmina different, &c.

*Phenice ferruginea*, sp. n.

Vertex of head and pronotum sordidly greyish; mesonotum fuscous brown, with the lateral and basal margins (the latter broadly), a central straight longitudinal carination, and a broader waved longitudinal fascia on each lateral area sordidly greyish or very pale virescent; abdomen above fuscous